An Augustinian Christology

In An Augustinian Christology: Completing Christ, Joseph Walker-Lenow advances a striking christological thesis: Jesus Christ, true God and true human, only becomes who he is through his relations to the world around him. To understand both his person and work, it is necessary to see him as receptive to and determined by the people he meets, the environments he inhabits, even those people who come to worship him. Christ and the redemption he brings cannot be understood apart from these factors, for it is through the existence and agency of the created world that he redeems.

To pursue these claims, Walker-Lenow draws on an underappreciated resource in the history of Christian thought: St. Augustine of Hippo’s theology of the “whole Christ.” Presenting Augustine’s christology across the full range of his writings, Joseph Walker-Lenow recovers a christocentric Augustine with the potential to transform our understandings of the Church and its mission in our world.

Joseph Walker-Lenow (Ph.D., University of Virginia) is Rector of St. James’ Episcopal Parish in Lothian, MD. He has previously taught at Duke Divinity School, Creighton University, and the University of Virginia, and has published research in systematic and philosophical theology in journals including the International Journal of Systematic Theology, Religious Studies, and Political Theology.
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An Augustinian Christology
Completing Christ

Joseph Walker-Lenow
Duke University
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This project has been stewing for some time. That has certainly come with its share of hardships over the years, but one of the great joys it has made possible is the opportunity to discuss the ideas of this book with teachers, friends, and colleagues at many different stages of my thinking. A full accounting of those who have shaped my thinking here in large ways and small is more than I am able to provide here; even given world enough and time, my suspicion is that I would be incapable of listing all those from whom I have learned, and who have materially contributed to my ability to write this book and what I say herein. Even so, it is a true pleasure to be able to offer a word of thanks to many of those who have provided personal support, or a useful insight, or a generative question, or a welcome distraction at key moments of this project.

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In a book that wishes to attend to the ways we become who we are, in significant part, as a gift received from the hands of others, I am nowhere more conscious of how much I have received from others than when I think of my family. I don’t know who I would be without Larry and Amy Lenow, or my brother John and his wife Catheryn, but I know I wouldn’t be half as happy or as loved. And for an author who thought he was already aware of how an unexpected encounter can affect everything that follows, changing one’s life in ways one couldn’t possibly have anticipated, I have felt my life’s course utterly and joyfully rerouted by meeting my brilliant wife, Rhody Walker-Lenow. Rho (who insists on me writing – accurately – that she completes me): I love you.
## Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ST–</td>
<td>Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an. et or.</td>
<td>De anima et eius origine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>civ.</td>
<td>De civitate dei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conf.</td>
<td>Confessionum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>correp.</td>
<td>De correptione et gratia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>div.qu.</td>
<td>De diversis quaestionibus octoginta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doctr.chr.</td>
<td>De doctrina christiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en.Ps.</td>
<td>Enarrationes in Psalmos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ench.</td>
<td>De fide spe et caritate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ep.</td>
<td>Epistulae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ep.Io.tr.</td>
<td>In epistulam Iohannis ad Parthos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exp.prop.Rm.</td>
<td>Expositio quarundam propositionum ex epistula apostoli ad Romanos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.Faust.</td>
<td>Contra Faustum Manicheum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gn.litt.</td>
<td>De Genesi ad litteram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gr. et lib. arb.</td>
<td>De gratia et libero arbitrio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lo.ev.tr.</td>
<td>In Iohannis evangelium tractatus CXXIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lib.arb.</td>
<td>De libero arbitrio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.Max.</td>
<td>Contra Maximinum Arrianum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

mor. De moribus ecclesiae catholicae et de moribus
Manicheorum

nat. et gr. De natura et gratia

ord. De ordine

persev. De dono perseverantiae

praed. sanct. De praedestinatione sanctorum

retr. Retractionum

s. Sermones

s. Dolbeau Sermones a F. Dolbeau editi

c.s. Arrian. Contra sermonem Arrianorum

trin. De trinitate

vera rel. De vera religione

virg. De sancta virginitatat